

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

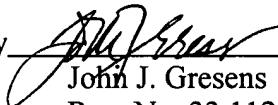
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
3100 Norwest Center  
90 South Seventh Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402  
(612) 332-5300

Dated: February 23, 2000

By

  
John J. Gresens  
Reg. No. 33,112

JJG:tvm